

PADSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. REID. M.B., Ch.b., B.Sc., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR:

A.F. Buller. A.R.S.I.



Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Medical Officer of Health for 1952.

The illness of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Buller, continued throughout 1952 and it ultimately became necessary for him to relinquish his post. Mr. Sharpe acting in a temporary capacity was confirmed in his appointment on November 1st, 1952.

The year presented two unwelcome features, the first being the appearance of four cases of poliomyelitis with one death, scattered throughout the period, and evidently unconnected with each other. The second was the Council's failure to deal adequately with one of the most unsavoury properties in the town when the opportunity presented itself. A standard of conditions was accepted which may well make future action difficult in regard to the many slum properties which exist. Houses of this type, which by present standards were slums when first erected, cannot possibly be made habitable at any cost, and the encouragement of their continued use is most disturbing.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council and Officials for their help during the year.

1. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	3,343
Estimated mid-year population	2,733
Number of Inhabited Houses	925
Rateable Value	£21,461
Product of Penny Rate	£85
Comparability Factor Births	0.98
Deaths	0.72

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

TABLE 1.

Number of Live Births Registered, 1952.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	29	41	70
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	30	42	72
Birth Rate per 1,000 population		26.3	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			
England & Wales		15.3	

Still Births.

Two female legitimate stillbirths were registered during the year.

Infant Deaths.

Two male infant deaths were registered, one occurring within the first month of life.

Deaths.

Number of Registered Deaths 1952.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	17	17	34
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			12.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population			
England & Wales			11.3
Corrected Death Rate			8.92

TABLE 11.

Distribution of Deaths by Diseases.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diseases of the Heart	5	8	13
Diseases of the			
Intracranial Vessels	4	3	7
Other circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Respiratory Diseases	-	2	2
(excluding tuberculosis)			
Tuberculosis	2	-	2
Accidental Deaths	1	2	3
All other Causes	4	1	5
	17	17	34

TABLE 111.

Distribution of Deaths by Ages.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
0 - 1 month	1	-	1
1 month - 11 months	1	-	1
1 year - 10 years	-	1	1
11 - 20	1	-	1
21 - 40	4	-	4
41 - 60	1	1	2
61 - 70	2	2	4
71 - 80	2	5	7
81 - 90	5	6	11
91 +	-	2	2
	17	17	34

The vital statistics show a steady increase in the number of births from 1949. The figures for the successive years are 36, 40, 55, 72, with corresponding rates of 14.5, 15.7, 20.3, 26.3. The last two being considerably in excess for the birth rate for England & Wales. The increase is almost certainly associated with the influx of young naval families to the Admiralty houses and other accommodation in the town. There is a constant change in families and the relatively large number of births is not likely to be reflected in a great increase in the total population. During the year for instance 21 of the children born in 1952 had left the district before the end of the year.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital Services.

No changes occurred in the hospitals serving the district during the year. Redruth remained the nearest accommodation for hospital confinement. The Council considered that the discharge of patients from Redruth after confinement, to travel home by public transport was unreasonable and made representation to the Hospital Management Committee to this effect.

Admissions to hospital for confinement were in excess of the average for the County. The naval families may also account for this with a preponderance of first babies, which is considered a justifiable reason for hospital confinement.

County Council Services.

No modifications in the services provided under Part III of the National Health Services Act, 1946, affecting the district were made during the year. The infant welfare centre continued to be well attended, and the midwives ante-natal clinic, held primarily for educational purposes, continued on a small scale. General nursing and midwifery services were provided by 2 C.C.N.A. District-Nurse-Midwives, who conducted 36 home confinements or 50% of the total births.

Last year's favourable increase in immunised children was not continued during 1952. Only 26 of the 55 eligible children completed a course of diphtheria immunisation by the end of the year. The proportion of children between 0 - 5 years protected is 55%. November saw the introduction of the combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine, which is now used almost exclusively.

An attempt was made to establish a home help service, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable employees, especially during the summer months, little progress was made. The W.V.S. who have already done so much for the old people in the town readily accepted the responsibility of home visiting to persons requiring help and a better liaison was established with the District Nurse in this connection.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies.

The bacteriological quality of the town's supply continued to be satisfactory during the year. The quantity showed the usual deficiencies during the summer months and restrictions had to be imposed on the use of water for various purposes. The inadequacy of supply is an urgent problem which the Council have attempted to solve directly but which will finally await the completion of the Wadebridge De Lank Scheme.

Results of Samples, 1952.

TABLE IV.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Probable Coliform.</u>	<u>Probable Faecal Coli.</u>
16.1.52.	0	0
7.2.52.	0	0
27.2.52.	0	0
20.3.52.	5	0
26.3.52.	0	0
2.4.52.	3	0
16.4.52.	0	0
21.5.52.	0	0
9.7.52.	0	0
21.8.52.	1	0
18.9.52.	5	0
22.10.52.	8	1
5.11.52.	0	0

Sewage Disposal.

The additional houses, both Council and Naval, added to the already overloaded sewerage system, and damage to out-falls created urgent problems during the year. The consultant's report on the new sewerage system was received and has been under consideration by the present Council. Expense is likely to be a forbidding obstacle, but some means of over-coming the present difficulty is essential if further acute problems are to be avoided.

Refuse Collection.

No improvement was recorded in the nature of refuse collected or in containers used by householders. Much could be done by the public themselves in disposing of burnable material and undesirable objects, reducing considerably the inevitable nuisance associated with refuse collection. The Credis Mine dump produced considerable nuisance during the year, largely due to inadequate control. Complaints were received from properties in the immediate vicinity and temporary remedies were applied. The solution, adequate control as recommended by the Ministry, would make the site admirable for the purpose, but would undoubtedly increase the cost of disposal. The new refuse lorry is a welcome change from the old unsuitable method of collection, and is proving to be most satisfactory.

TABLE V.

Rodent Control, 1952.

<u>Properties.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Treatment.</u>
Council Properties	5	27
Dwelling Houses	850	110
Agricultural Properties	20	10
Business & Industrial Premises.	120	31

The district continued to be supervised by the Joint Rodent Control Committee comprising Wadebridge, Camelford and Padstow. No major infestations were reported.

Caravan and Camping Sites.

An additional licence was issued for a new camping and caravan site established in the urban district.

IV. FOOD AND DRUGS.

Premises.

Fifteen visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector to food preparing premises. 100 lbs of tinned meat and ham, 54 lbs fish and 30 tins of other food stuffs were declared unfit for human consumption. Five new registrations were made for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream. No samples were submitted to the laboratory during the year. One new registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations was made. No milk samples were submitted during the year.

Food Inspection.

Seventeen milk samples and 14 other foods were submitted by the County Council's Inspectors and 1 of the other foods was found to be adulterated. This related to complaint about sugar which had been purchased in the town and was found to contain a proportion of Epsom Salts. The source of adulteration was not determined.

V. FACORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The sixteen registered premises caused no complaint during the year and no observations were received from H.M. Inspector. A visit to the new factory making artificial teeth indicated that many out-workers were employed who had not been notified to the Authority. The factory was closed before notifications were secured.

VI. HOUSING.

Eight houses were completed by the Council during the year. The allocation gave no opportunity to deal with any sub-standard houses which exist in the district. The death of a single occupant of one of the worst examples presented an opportunity to recommend an individual house for action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1937. The house in addition to containing all the attributes of unfitness as expressed in the 1919 standard was also dangerous. The advice of the Medical Officer and Surveyor was not followed and an extremely low standard of improvement was accepted by the Council at considerable cost to the owner, and freedom from future action was given until 1960.

VII. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Other than 1 case of puerperal pyrexia the only notified diseases were 4 cases of poliomyelitis. The frequency of notification of other infectious diseases in the surrounding area, particularly whooping cough, suggests that Padstow was only apparently, rather than really free. The cases of poliomyelitis occurred in February, March, August and September, as isolated incidents between which no direct connection could be established.

Tuberculosis.

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year and 1 case was transferred to the district. One death was registered and 2 cases left the district.

Supervision of cases and contacts continued during the year but refusals for A-Ray and tuberculin tests were still prevalent. No contacts were given B.C.G. vaccination.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

Medical Officer of Health.